

CLAIMS

1. A fluorescent lamp comprising:

a plurality of interdigitated legs connected by a plurality of curved segments, the plurality of interdigitated legs arranged in multiple planes.
2. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein the fluorescent lamp comprises a tubular fluorescent lamp.
3. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein the plurality of interdigitated legs are substantially parallel.
4. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein the plurality of interdigitated legs are arranged in a spiral.
5. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein the plurality of interdigitated legs are arranged such that successive legs alternate between planes.
6. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein the plurality of legs comprises at least three adjacent legs in a first plane, at least three adjacent legs in a second plane, and a curved segment between a leg in the first plane and a leg in the second plane.

7. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein the multiple planes comprise a first curved plane and a second curved plane.
8. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein the each of plurality of legs includes an aperture.
9. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein the fluorescent lamp has a first side facing a display, and wherein the plurality of legs are interdigitated to provide a continuous lamp surface on the first side.
10. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of legs has an elliptical cross sectional shape.
11. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of legs has a scalloped cross sectional shape.
12. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of legs has a cross sectional diameter that varies along a length of the leg.
13. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of legs has a plurality of undulations.

14. The fluorescent lamp of claim 1 wherein at least two of the plurality of legs have a plurality of undulations, and wherein the undulations of the at least two legs are shaped to mesh together.
15. A tubular fluorescent lamp comprising:

a plurality of legs and plurality of curved segments, each the plurality of curved segments arranged between a pair of the plurality of legs, the plurality of legs and the plurality of curved segments arranged such that at least three successive legs in the plurality of legs reside in a first plane and such that at least three successive legs in the plurality of legs reside in a second plane.
16. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 14 wherein the plurality of legs are substantially parallel.
17. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 14 wherein the lamp includes a first side, and wherein the plurality of legs are spaced to provide a continuous lamp surface on the first side.
18. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 14 wherein the lamp includes a first side, and wherein each of the plurality of legs includes an aperture facing the first side.
19. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 14 wherein the first plane is substantially parallel to the second plane.

20. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 14 wherein the plurality of legs in the first plane are interdigitated with the plurality of legs in the second plane.
21. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 14 wherein the plurality of legs in the first plane are interdigitated with the plurality of legs in the second plane.
22. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 14 further comprising a first cathode at a first end on the tubular fluorescent lamp and a second cathode at a second end of the tubular fluorescent lamp.
23. A tubular fluorescent lamp comprising:

a plurality of legs and plurality of curved segments, each the plurality of curved segments arranged between a pair of the plurality of legs, the plurality of legs and the plurality of curved segments arranged such that successive legs in the plurality of plurality of legs alternate between a first plane and a second plane.
24. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 22 wherein the plurality of legs are substantially parallel.
25. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 22 wherein the lamp includes a first side, and wherein the plurality of legs are spaced to provide a continuous lamp surface on the first side.

26. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 22 wherein the lamp includes a first side, and wherein each of the plurality of legs includes an aperture facing the first side.
27. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 22 wherein the first plane is substantially parallel to the second plane.
28. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 22 wherein the tubular fluorescent lamp comprises a tube having a diameter, and wherein alternating successive legs in the plurality of legs are spaced a distance apart substantially equal to the tube diameter.
29. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 22 further comprising a first cathode at a first end on the tubular fluorescent lamp and a second cathode at a second end of the tubular fluorescent lamp.
30. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 22 wherein alternating successive legs in the plurality of legs are proximate and adjacent each other.

31. A tubular fluorescent lamp comprising:

a plurality of legs and plurality of curved segments, each the plurality of curved segments arranged between a pair of the plurality of legs, the plurality of legs and the plurality of curved segments arranged such that at least three successive legs in the plurality of legs reside in a first curve and such that at least three successive legs in the plurality of legs reside in a second curve.

32. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 31 wherein the plurality of legs are substantially parallel.

33. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 31 wherein the lamp includes a first side, and wherein the plurality of legs are spaced to provide a continuous lamp surface on the first side.

34. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 31 wherein the lamp includes a first side, and wherein each of the plurality of legs includes an aperture facing the first side.

35. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 31 wherein the first curve is substantially parallel to the second curve.

36. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 31 wherein the plurality of legs in the first curve are interdigitated with the plurality of legs in the second curve.

37. The tubular fluorescent lamp of claim 31 further comprising a first cathode at a first end on the tubular fluorescent lamp and a second cathode at a second end of the tubular fluorescent lamp.

38. A tubular fluorescent lamp comprising:

a plurality of legs and a plurality of curved segments, the plurality of legs and plurality of curved segments configured to form a three dimensional serpentine coil.